



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair
Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge
Councilor James Nash*

**City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building
Northampton, MA**

Meeting Date: December 21, 2017

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting took place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 7:39p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members David Murphy, Maureen Carney, Marianne LaBarge and Jim Nash. Also present from the City Council were Councilors Bill Dwight, Ryan O'Donnell, Gina-Louise Sciarra, Dennis Bidwell and Alisa Klein.
3. **Approve Minutes of December 7, 2017 Meeting:** Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes; Councilor Nash seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.
4. **Financial Orders:**

**A. 17.434 An Order To Appropriate Free Cash For Fire Alarm System Upgrades At DPW -
1st Reading**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order. The Mayor's office made a request that the City Council entertain two readings at tonight's meeting at the time the order was submitted, Mayor Narkewicz advised. The Fire Alarm system upgrade is a project anticipated as part of the capital program. Last year, contractors upgraded the fire protection system at the Forbes Library, which was an older, antiquated system. Administrators decided to try to move the project forward following fires at the Tolland and Sandisfield DPW facilities. The entire fleet of snowplowing equipment was lost at the worst possible time. Free Cash was just certified, so they decided to use it to move forward ahead of schedule. Also, some of the smoke detectors in the administration building are not hard-wired, and this would replace them with hard-wired units tied in to the dispatch center.

Councilor Dwight commented that what Mayor Narkewicz just described is basically bringing the systems up to code, and Mayor Narkewicz agreed. There are fuels and other flammable materials

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in the barn, he added. Upgrades have been completed in most city facilities and this covers a couple of buildings remaining to be addressed.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

B. 17.435 An Order To Pay Bills From Prior Fiscal Year - 1st Reading

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order and listed the itemized bills.

The list represents a series of small bills sent to Human Resources instead of the respective departments resulting in department heads missing the June 30th payment deadline, Mayor Narkewicz explained. Carrying the order over to the next Council session would further delay payment of the outstanding bills.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Nash seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

5. New Business

-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

6. **Adjourn:** At 7:45 p.m. Councilor Carney moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

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